

## Johnson, Patrick

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**From:** Jason Callahan <jallahan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2013 1:06 PM  
**To:** District Applications  
**Subject:** Application for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
**Attachments:** CallahanRedistrictingCommissionApp.pdf

Hello,

Attached is my application for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Thanks,  
Jason Callahan  
512-699-9627  
[jallahan@gmail.com](mailto:jallahan@gmail.com)



# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application  
by email to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
by mail or in person to:  
Office of the City Auditor  
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130  
Austin, TX 78701

10240

*Application Period:  
January 18, 2013  
through  
February 22, 2013*

**APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**2013**

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY  
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN  
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER  
AT [WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE](http://WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE)**

You must submit an electronic application to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

**Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013**

**DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE**

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission **duties** include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member **terms of service** include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
  - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
    - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
    - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
    - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Callahan Jason Todd  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1130660013

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

2612 Stacy Ln Austin TX 78704  
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-699-9627

Contact Email Address: jallahan@gmail.com

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

13-02-14P02:26 RCVD

**APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**2013**

Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Conflicts of Interest**

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

<b>Within 5 years of the application date, have you or your spouse:</b>	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Within 3 years of the application date, have you or your spouse been:</b>	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>In the last City Election did you or your spouse:</b>	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Personal Background Information**

- Ethnicity: American of mostly German and Irish descent
- Race: White
- Gender: ☒ Male    ☐ Female
- Age: (Please check your response)
 

☐ 18 to 24    ☒ 25 to 34    ☐ 35 to 44    ☐ 45 to 54    ☐ 55 to 64    ☐ 65+
- Education level: (Please check any that apply)
 

☒ High School Diploma or GED

☐ Some College (major \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ Associate's Degree (major \_\_\_\_\_)

☒ Bachelor's Degree (major Mathematics)

☒ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject Ph.D., Mathematics)

**Qualifications**

**Please describe your relevant analytical skills.**

I exercise and teach analytical skills daily as a mathematics professor at St. Edward's University, where I have taught Calculus I and II, Applied Statistics, Linear Algebra, Precalculus, and Math for Liberal Arts in addition to mentoring research students in mathematics. I have submitted grant proposals to the National Science Foundation and Department of Education to improve the analytical skills of our students, which I also strive to do as a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics advisor and mentor for our McNair Scholars Program and as program manager for our Natural Sciences Learning Clusters. As evidence of my own analytical skills, I have published my Ph.D. dissertation and several original research articles in mathematics and coauthored a book entitled Knots, Molecules, and the Universe: An Introduction to Topology, which the American Mathematical Society will publish next year. I earned a 4.0 GPA for my Ph.D. and B.S. degrees in mathematics at UT-Austin, where won two teaching awards as a graduate student and was a Dean's Honored Graduate with Highest Honors and Special Honors in Mathematics as an undergraduate. Before that, I won a Way2Go Award as an actuarial intern at USAA for analyzing competitive positions for various automobile insurance policies, a Silver Bison Award as an actuarial intern at Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation for automating production of quarterly performance reports for life insurance products, and a Student Assistance for Education Scholarship as an intern in the Resource Planning Department of CPS for conducting mathematical models to forecast future energy consumption and production in addition to passing three Society of Actuaries licensing exams.



**Please describe your ability to be impartial.**

As a professor, I must be impartial and transparent when assigning grades and enforcing policies such as those regarding academic integrity. In particular, on my first-day handout for each class, I must make fully transparent exactly how grades will be calculated along with all policies regarding grading (such as for late homework and makeup exams) and academic integrity (such as what exactly constitutes academic dishonesty and what exactly are its penalties). I must then adhere precisely to all policies laid out on my first-day handout throughout the semester and apply them equally and impartially to every student, especially when assigning final grades for each course. As evidence of my ability to be transparent and impartial, I am pleased to report that in nine years of teaching at St. Edward's University and UT-Austin, no student has ever appealed a course grade that I have assigned. Unfortunately I have had several instances of academic dishonesty, but I have also successfully confronted each instance with transparency and impartiality so that no student has ever appealed my decisions or penalties regarding their academic dishonesty. As further evidence of my ability to be transparent and impartial, I have also served as a judge of student research at national and state conferences of the Mathematical Association of America and the Young Mathematicians Conference and as a member of the Participant Selection Committee for the Faculty Institute on Globalization and Society; again none of my decisions have ever been appealed or questioned.

**Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.**

My appreciation for Austin's diverse demographics and geography led me to move here and stay each time I had an opportunity to leave. I first fell in love with Austin's diversity of culture and landscape while in high school in San Antonio when I would regularly drive up to Austin for concerts or to just walk around the Drag, UT campus, Sixth Street, and Mount Bonnell. At the time I thought all that made Austin special, exciting, and so uniquely different from San Antonio was that it was a college town, so I was shocked not to find the same diversity of culture and arts in Lincoln, Nebraska, where I began college. After two years unsuccessfully searching for the vibrancy and excitement of Austin in Lincoln, I transferred to UT to complete my undergraduate degree. I first lived on campus, where I served as a Resident Assistant in the dormitories, and then I moved to an apartment in West Campus. Upon graduation, I was accepted at several prestigious graduate schools around the country but opted to stay at UT as I felt there was far too much here that I had yet to fully experience and appreciate. As a graduate student, I lived in the Hancock, North Campus, North Loop, and Cherrywood neighborhoods while also becoming involved with Austin's vibrant music culture by starting a record label, booking and promoting concerts, and tour-managing local bands. Upon earning my Ph.D., I was offered professorships at several prestigious institutions around the country but opted to accept a professorship at St. Edward's University as I still felt there was more to experience and appreciate in Austin. I have since lived in Travis Heights and am now a proud homeowner in the Dawson neighborhood, where I have joined the Neighborhood Association and Planning Contact Team. I have thoroughly enjoyed living on both sides of both 35 and the river, Austin's two greatest geographic divides, and learning more about the City's governance and diverse demographics in the inaugural CityWorks Academy in Fall 2009. I look forward to using this experience to serve the City.

Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.

I feel that my participation in the inaugural CityWorks Academy in Fall 2009 has prepared me for an experience such as this, and I would cherish the opportunity to serve the City that has brought so much to my life over the past fourteen years and helped make me the person I am today.

**DISCLAIMER**

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

**Jason Todd Callahan**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

**2/14/13**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**GLOSSARY**

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
  - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
  - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
  - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
  - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
  - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

